

## Fathers' involvement in their children's education

*Although most research on parental involvement has focused on mothers' roles in their children's education, current research indicates that fathers' involvement in their children's education also has a positive effect on student achievement and success in school. The role fathers assume in their children's education has become the subject of increasing interest to researchers and policymakers because single and nonresident fathers have become more common and higher proportions of mothers have entered the labor force.*

- Fathers in two-parent families, single fathers, and nonresident fathers were all more likely to attend a class event, a parent-teacher conference, or a general school meeting in 1996 than they were to volunteer in their children's schools.
- Fathers in single-parent families were more likely to have a high level of involvement in their children's schools than were fathers in two-parent families and nonresident fathers. Nearly half of fathers in two-parent families had a low level of involvement in their children's schools, as did a large majority of nonresident fathers.
- Children of fathers with high levels of involvement in their schools were generally more likely than children of fathers with low levels of involvement to have positive school outcomes. For example, children of fathers with high levels of involvement were more likely to enjoy school and less likely to be expelled or suspended than were children of fathers with low levels of involvement.

### Percentage of students in grades K-12 whose fathers were involved in their schools during the current school year, by type of activity and family type: 1996

Family type	Level of involvement <sup>1</sup>		Type of activity			
	High	Low	Volunteered	Attended class event	Attended parent-teacher conference	Attended general school meeting
Fathers in two-parent families	26.8	47.8	15.4	52.9	38.7	55.3
Fathers in single-parent families	46.1	28.4	23.3	64.8	63.9	68.3
Nonresident fathers <sup>2</sup>	8.7	82.5	4.0	22.0	15.0	18.0

### Percentage of students in grades K-12 with selected school outcomes during the current school year, by family type and level of fathers' involvement in child's school: 1996

Family type and level of fathers' involvement <sup>1</sup>	Child gets mostly A's (Grades 1-12)	Child enjoys school (Grades 1-12)	Child participated in extracurricular activities		Child has repeated a grade (Grades K-12)	Child has ever been expelled/suspended (Grades 6-12)
			Grades K-5	Grades 6-12		
Fathers in two-parent families						
Low involvement	34.1	33.0	73.7	79.3	14.8	17.7
High involvement	50.4	49.8	90.6	94.5	6.7	9.8
Fathers in single-parent families						
Low involvement	16.6	29.8	60.7	68.6	17.9	34.5
High involvement	31.7	43.9	79.1	86.3	13.3	11.4
Nonresident fathers <sup>2</sup>						
Low involvement	29.1	34.7	73.5	75.5	18.1	27.8
High involvement	35.2	44.8	86.6	92.0	7.2	14.4

<sup>1</sup> Low involvement is defined as participation in none or only one activity out of four; high involvement is defined as participation in three or four activities.

<sup>2</sup> These percentages represent the 75 percent of all nonresident fathers who were reported to have had contact with their children within the past year.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Household Education Survey, 1996 (Parent and Family Involvement in Education and Civic Involvement Components).

**Table S35(a) Standard errors for the first text table in *Indicator 35***

Family type	Level of involvement		Type of activity			
	High	Low	Volunteered	Attended class event	Attended parent-teacher conference	Attended general school meeting
Fathers in two-parent families	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Fathers in single-parent families	2.6	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.7	2.4
Nonresident fathers	0.6	0.9	0.4	1.0	0.8	0.8

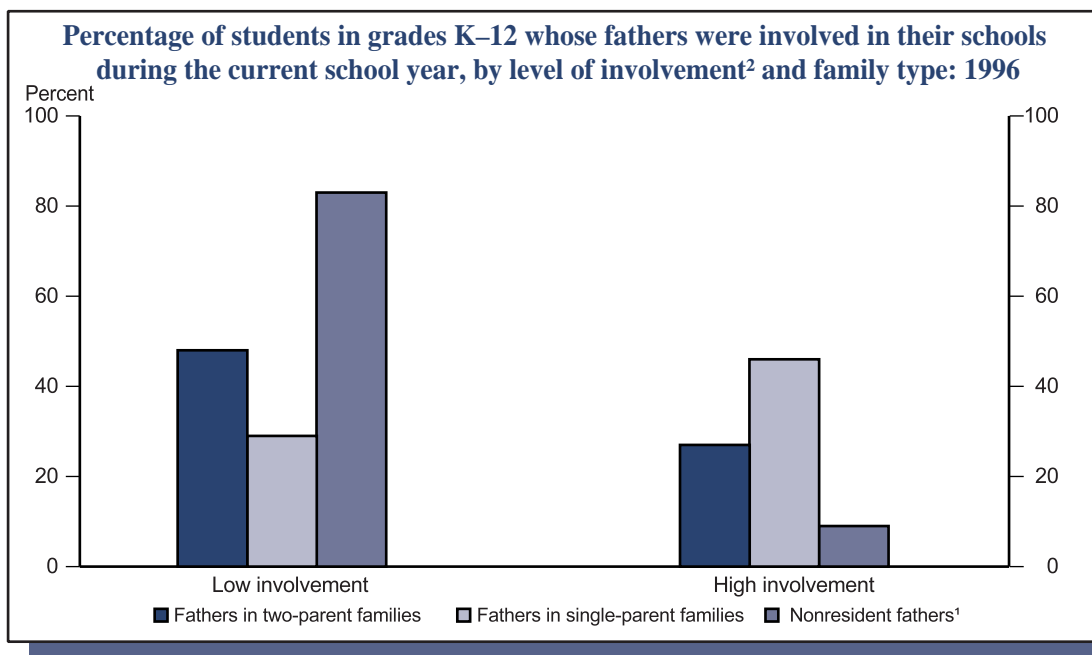
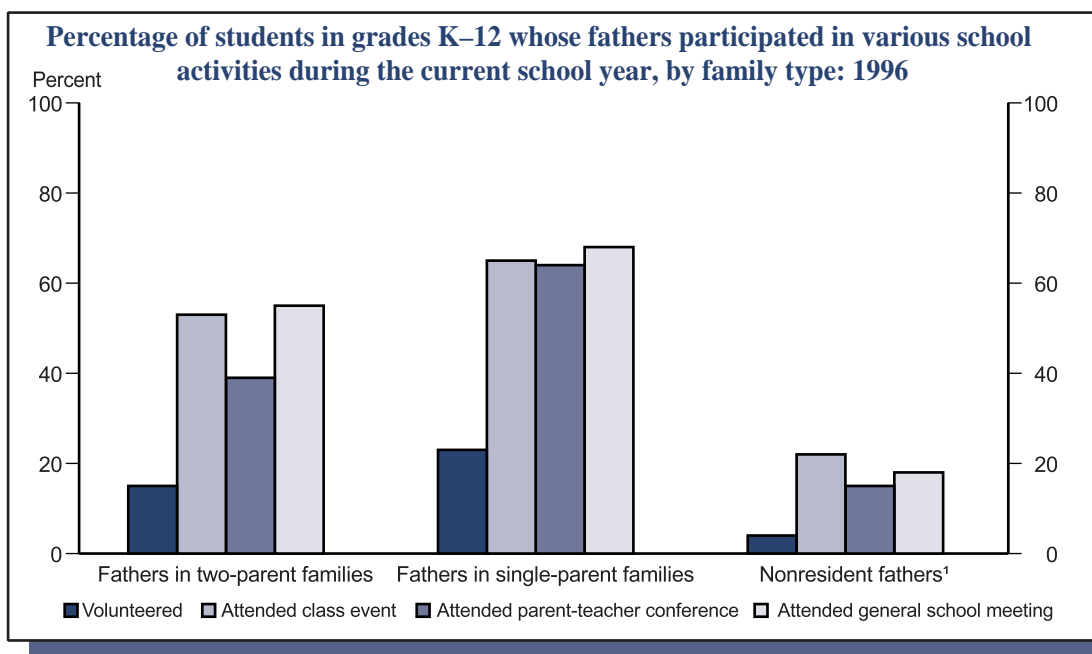
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Household Education Survey, 1996 (Parent and Family Involvement in Education and Civic Involvement Components).

**Table S35(b) Standard errors for the second text table in *Indicator 35***

Family type and level of fathers' involvement <sup>1</sup>	Child gets mostly A's (Grades 1-12)	Child enjoys school (Grades 1-12)	Child participated in extracurricular activities		Child has repeated a grade (Grades K-12)	Child has ever been expelled/suspended (Grades 6-12)
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